

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dev et al. (US 5,559,955). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because the cited reference does not disclose or suggest that dependent information is predetermined to indicate a predefined type of influence one device has on another device when the one device causes a problem. The predefined type of influence is selected prior to the occurrence of the problem.

In response to Applicant's Amendment filed on December 9, 2004, the Examiner asserts that the claimed dependent information being predetermined is disclosed in the Dev et al. reference, since it "teaches the use of connection relationships between the devices as being predetermined." The "connection relationships" disclosed in the Dev et al. reference does not disclose or suggest that the predetermined information indicates a predefined type of influence that one device has on another device when the device causes a problem, as now described in the claims (see Fig. 2 and corresponding description on page 9, lines 1-32). The connection relationships of Dev et al. also does not disclose or suggest that the predefined type of influence is selected prior to the occurrence of a problem. For these reasons, the present invention as now described in pending claims 1-18, are now believed to be allowable.

New claim 19 describes the feature of the invention for selecting the predefined type of influences described in claim 1, from which claim 19 depends. Claim 19 is believed

to be allowable for the reasons given with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited in claim 19.

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Joe Kim", written over a horizontal line.

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